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RL:0248

HR 198, HR 358 and HR 365

RELATING TO NOISE CONTROLS

Statement for
House Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing 25, March 1977

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HR 198, HR 358 and HR 365 all deal with the problem of noise. This statement has been submitted for review to the Legislative Subcommittee of the Environmental Center of the University of Hawaii. It does not represent an institutional position of the University.

HR 198

HR 198 deals with the problem of noise generally. It calls for the full enforcement of the provision of executing noise control laws by agencies of the City and County of Honolulu. Such enforcement is, of course, appropriately called for.

HR 358

HR 358 deals with the more specific problem of vehicular noise from roadways. It would request that the Department of Health use its authority in the control of such noise, and further that the Department in cooperation with other agencies, investigate the effects of roadway noise. The problem of roadway noise is appropriately discussed in the resolution. The exercise of present control authority is appropriate. The investigation called for may be of some utility in pinpointing areas where the problem is most severe.

HR 365

HR 365 likewise deals with the problem of vehicular noise from roadways. It would request that the Departments of Health and of Transportation study the feasibility of minimizing vehicular noise in Honolulu. As has been indicated in testimony concerning HB 1092 and SB 577 (e.g. Environmental Center review RL:0222, 8 March 1977; RL:0223, 9 March 1977), the design of vehicular noise controls that will be at the same time, enforceable, and practical involves some complex issues. The request that the Department of Health and Transportation study and advise on such controls is thoroughly justified. We

suggest, however, that the first paragraph of rationale for the resolution be revised to substitute "excessive noise" for "noise". It is not clear that society will tolerate no noise, and impractical to eliminate noise totally.